

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will dated 28 June 1549 and codicil dated 8 July 1549, proved 26 April 1550, of Sir Christopher More (c.1483 - 16 August 1549) of Loseley, Surrey, and the Blackfriars, London, whose son, Sir William More, sold property in the Blackfriars to James Burbage (1531-1597). See the indenture of bargain and sale dated 4 February 1596 on the Shakespeare Documented website at:

<https://shakespearedocumented.folger.edu/exhibition/document/blackfriars-playhouse-james-burbage-purchases-property-blackfriars>

James Burbage's intention to convert the property into a theatre was thwarted by Lady Russell. For Lady Russell, see Laoutaris, Chris, *Shakespeare and the Countess*, (London: Fig Tree, 2014), pp. 121, 123, 130, 176-7, 277-8, 324.

From the *ODNB* entry for James Burbage:

. . . in 1596 the Burbages moved down from Shoreditch to Blackfriars. James spent £600 for part of an old stone building containing a former roofed playing-place, and a further £400 on having this converted to a handsome new one. In November distinguished residents of the precinct successfully petitioned the privy council to disallow his plan. Early in 1597, probably at the end of January, Burbage died, presumably at Blackfriars.

In the 1580s Oxford held a lease of Sir William More's property in the Blackfriars, which he made a gift of to his servant, the playwright, John Lyly (1554-1606). See the *ODNB*.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

For the testator's family background, see the More pedigree in Brayley, Edward Wedlake, *A Topographical History of Surrey*, Vol. I, (London: G. Willis, 1850), p. 416 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=23VKAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA416>

For the testator, see also the *ODNB* entry, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<https://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/more-christopher-1483-1549>

b. by 1483, 2nd s. of John More of London by Elizabeth. educ. I. Temple, adm. 29 June 1513. m. (1) by 1504, Margaret, da. of Walter Mugge of Guildford, Surr., 5s. inc. William More II 7da.; (2) by 1535, Constance, da. of Richard Sackville of Witherham, Suss., wid. of William Heneage of Milton, Hants. Kntd. Aug. 1540/Feb. 1541.3

Testator's grandfather

The testator was the grandson of Thomas More of Norton, Derbyshire.

Testator's parents

The testator was the son of John More, a London fishmonger, and his wife, Elizabeth.

Testator's siblings

The testator had a brother and two sisters:

-**Robert More** of London, who married a wife named Mary.

-**Alice More** (d.1545), who married firstly John Clerke, and secondly Sir John More (c.1451–1530), father of Sir Thomas More. For Sir John More, see the *ODNB* entry, and Ives, E.W., *The Common Lawyers of Pre-Reformation England*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1983), p. 469 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=xu08AAAIAAJ&pg=PA469>

-**Anne More**, who married John Lucas of Halden, Kent.

MARRIAGES AND ISSUE

The testator married firstly, by 1504, Margaret Mugge or Mudge, the daughter of Walter Mugge or Mudge of Guildford, Surrey. See TNA REQ 2/8/158, and Flint, Stamford Raffles, *Mudge Memoirs*, (Truro: Netherton & Worth, 1883), pp. xiii-xiv at:

http://books.google.ca/books?id=Y_9cwpzBINEC&pg=PR13

By Margaret Mugge, the testator had five sons and seven daughters:

* **Sir William More** (1520-1600) of Loseley, Surrey, and the Blackfriars, London, for whom see the *ODNB* entry. He married firstly, before 12 June 1545, Mabel Digneley (d. by 1551), the daughter of Marchion Dingley [=Mark Digneley?] of the Isle of Wight. See the Dingley pedigree in Rylands, W. Harry, *Pedigrees From the Visitation of Hampshire*, (London: Harleian Society, 1913), Vol. LXIV, p. 166 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/pedigreesfromvis64beno#page/166/mode/2up>

Sir William More married secondly Margaret Danyell, the daughter of Ralph Danyell, esquire, of Swaffham, Norfolk, and Margaret Blake, sister of Thomas Blake (d.1505/6), by whom he had a son and two daughters:

(1) Sir George More (1553-1632), for whom see the *ODNB* entry. He married firstly Anne Poynings (d.1590), daughter and co-heir of Sir Adrian Poynings (1512?-1571) of Wherwell, Hampshire, and secondly Constance Michell, widow of Richard Knight, esquire, and daughter and co-heir of John Michell, esquire, of Stammerham, Sussex. Sir Edward More (d.1623), friend, trustee and executor of Oxford's second wife, Elizabeth Trentham, was Sir George More's brother-in-law, having married, as his first wife, Anne Poynings' sister, Mary Poynings (d.1591). For Sir Edward More, see his will, TNA PROB 11/141/530, and the will of Oxford's second wife, Elizabeth Trentham, TNA PROB 11/121/171.

Sir George More's third daughter, Anne More (1584–1617), secretly married the poet, John Donne, in December 1601.

(2) Elizabeth More (1552-1600), one of the Queen's favourite ladies-in-waiting. She married firstly, on 3 November 1567, Richard Polsted (1545-1576), the only son of Henry Polsted (d. 10 December 1555), esquire, of Albury, Surrey, and Alice Lord alias Lawerde, the daughter of Robert Lord, servant to Sir John Gostwick; secondly Oxford's trustee, Sir John Wolley (d. 28 February 1596), for whose will see TNA PROB 11/87/198; and thirdly, in 1597, the Lord Keeper, Sir Thomas Egerton (1540-1617). For Elizabeth More, see also McCutcheon, Elizabeth, 'Playing the Waiting Game: The Life and Letters of Elizabeth Wolley', *Quidditas*, Vol. 20, 1999, pp. 31-54, available online. For Henry Polsted, see his will, dated 1 August 1555 and proved 16 May 1556, TNA PROB 11/38/39. For the will of Alice Lord Polsted, dated 27 May 1586 and proved 12 December 1589, see TNA PROB 11/74/529. According to the History of Parliament entry for Henry Polsted, he was a kinsman of the Mugge family (see above). See:

<https://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/polsted-henry-1510-55>

(3) Anne More (d.1624), who married Sir George Mainwaring (before 1551 - 1628) of Ightfield, Shropshire. In her will, Oxford's second wife, Elizabeth Trentham (see above), refers to Anne More as her kinswoman and friend:

Also I give unto my loving kinswoman and tried friend, the Lady Mainwaring, wife unto Sir George Mainwaring, knight, my gilt standing cup with a cover.

* **Richard More**, who died without issue.

* **Christopher More**, who died without issue.

* **John More**, who died without issue.

- * **Christopher More** (again), who died without issue.
- * **Elizabeth More.**
- * **Cecily More.**
- * **Margaret More**, who married Thomas Fiennes, a brother of Thomas Fiennes (c.1515 – 1541), 9th Baron Dacre.
- * **Eleanor More**, who married, as his first wife, the testator's stepson, William Heneage (d. January 1555) of Milton in Arlington, Sussex.
- * **Bridget More**, who married a husband surnamed Compton, of Guernsey.
- * **Anne More**, who married John Scarlett.
- * **Elizabeth More** (again), who married John Wintershall or Wintershull.

Testator's second marriage

The testator married secondly, by 1535, Constance Sackville (d. 29 March 1554), the daughter of Richard Sackville (d. 28 July 1524) and Isabel Digges, the daughter of John Digges (d. 29 December 1502), esquire, and Joan Clifton, the daughter and co-heiress of Sir Gervase Clifton (beheaded after the Battle of Tewkesbury 6 May 1471). See Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. I, pp. 655-6. Isabel Digges' brother, James Digges (c.1473-1540?), esquire, was the father of Leonard Digges (c.1515-c.1559), who was in turn the father of the mathematician Thomas Digges (c.1546-1595). See the *ODNB* entries for Leonard Digges and Thomas Digges. See also the will of James Digges, TNA PROB 11/28/308.

Thomas Digges married Anne St Leger (c.1555-1636), who after his death married Thomas Russell, the overseer of the will of William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon. See the will of Thomas Digges, TNA PROB 11/86/204. See also the will of Thomas Russell, TNA PROB 11/165/424.

For the will of Richard Sackville, see TNA PROB 11/21/446. For the Sackville family, see Collins, Arthur, *The Peerage of England*, Vol. II, (London: H. Woodfall, 1768), p. 272 at:

https://books.google.ca/books?id=yMECXuXJf_AC&pg=PA272

For the Sackville family, see also Nichols, Francis, *The British Compendium*, Part I, (London: A Bettesworth, n.d.), p. 234 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=tw1ZAAAACAAJ&pg=PA234>

The testator's second wife, Constance Sackville, had four brothers and six sisters, including:

-John Sackville (by 1484-1557), appointed by the testator as overseer in the will below. He married firstly Margaret Boleyn (died c.1533), sister of Thomas Boleyn (c.1477 – 12 March 1539), 1st Earl of Wiltshire. See his will, TNA PROB 11/42B/539, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<https://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/sackville-john-i-1484-1557>

b. by 17 Mar. 1484, 1st s. of Richard Sackville of Withyham by Isabel, da. of John Digges of Barham Kent, bro. of Richard Sackville I. m. (1) by 1507, Margaret, da. of Sir William Boleyn of Blickling, Norf., 3s. Christopher, John II and Richard Sackville II 3da.; (2) by 1534, Anne, da. of Humphrey Torrell of Willingale Doe; Essex, s.p. suc. fa. 28 July 1524.1

See also the Wikipedia entry edited by the author of this website at:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Sackville_\(died_1557\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Sackville_(died_1557))

-Mildred Sackville, who, as noted above, married, as his second wife, Sir William Fitzwilliam (d. 9 August 1534), grandfather of Lady Russell, Lady Burghley and Lady Bacon. See *Plantagenet Ancestry, supra*, Vol. II, pp. 109-10.

-Mary Sackville, who married John Roberts, by whom she was the mother of Jane Roberts (d.1575?), who married Sir William Fitzwilliam (c.1506 – 3 October 1559). See the wills of Sir William Fitzwilliam, TNA PROB 11/42B/624, and Jane Roberts, TNA PROB 11/57/533. By Jane Roberts, Sir William Fitzwilliam had four daughters, including:

(1) Mabel Fitzwilliam (d.1564?), who married Sir Thomas Browne (d. 9 February 1597), only son of Henry Browne (d.1545?), esquire, by his first wife, Katherine Shelley, the daughter of Sir William Shelley (d. 4 January 1549) of Michelgrove (in Clapham), Sussex, and Alice Belknap, the daughter of Henry Belknap (d. 3 July 1488), esquire. For the will of Henry Browne, see TNA PROB 11/32/421. For the will of Henry Belknap, proved 2 December 1488, see TNA PROB 11/8/280. Alice Belknap's sister, Elizabeth Belknap, married Sir Philip Cooke (c.1454 - 7 December 1503) of Gidea Hall (in Havering), Essex, by whom she was the grandmother of Sir Anthony Cooke (d. 11 June 1576), and the great-grandmother of Sir Anthony Cooke's five daughters, including Lady Burghley, Lady Bacon and Lady Russell. See *Plantagenet Ancestry, supra*, Vol. I, pp. 232-7.

By Sir Thomas Browne, Mabel Fitzwilliam was the mother of a son:

(i) **Sir Matthew Browne** (died c.1603), the trustee of Nicholas Brend, owner of the land on which the Globe Theatre was built. See *Plantagenet Ancestry, supra*, Vol. I, p. 414.

For Constance Sackville's other siblings, see the will of her father, *supra*.

Constance Sackville married firstly William Heneage (d. 10 June 1523), son of William Heneage (d. February 1518?) of Alfriston, Sussex. For the will of William Heneage (d. February 1518?), proved 18 June 1518, see TNA PROB 11/19/110. For the inquisition post mortem taken in July 1518 after his death see TNA C 142/33/23. See also Surrey History Centre, LM/1114, 'Inventory of the goods and chattels of William Heneage of Middleton [Milton, Sussex]'. For the inquisition taken 1 July 1553, thirty years after the death of Constance Sackville's husband, William Heneage (d. 10 June 1523), see TNA C 142/98/60. For the marriage of Constance Sackville and William Heneage (d. 10 June 1523), see also Attree, F.W.T., *Notes of Post Mortem Inquisitions Taken in Sussex*, Sussex Record Society, Vol. XIV, (London: Mitchell Hughes and Clarke, 1912), pp. 120-1 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/notesofpostmorte00greauoft#page/120/mode/2up>

By William Heneage, Constance Sackville appears to have had two sons and a daughter:

* **William Heneage** (d. January 1555) of Milton in Arlington, Sussex, who married firstly the testator's daughter, Eleanor More, and secondly Jane Standish. See Attree, *supra*, p. 120, and the Heneage pedigree in Maddison, A.R., ed., *Lincolnshire Pedigrees*, (London: Harleian Society, 1903), Vol. II, p. 481. For the inquisition taken after the death of William Heneage (d. January 1555), see TNA C 142/106/57. For the will of the testator's stepson, William Heneage, proved 21 May 1555, see TNA PROB 11/37/340.

* **Richard Heneage**.

***Elizabeth Heneage**, who appears to have married Robert Banks.

For the will of the testator's second wife, Constance Sackville, see TNA PROB 11/37/63.

RM: T{estamentum} Christof{eri} More milit{is}

In the name of God, Amen. The 28th of June in the year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord Edward the Sixth by the grace of God King of England, France & Ireland, Defender of the Faith and in Earth of the Church of England and Ireland Supreme Head the third, I, Christopher More of Loseley in the county of Surrey, knight, do make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following:

First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, his mother, St Mary, and to the holy company of heaven, having perfect hope and confidence only by his blood to receive remission and forgiveness of all my sins and offences;

My body to be buried without pomp or vainglory according to the discretion of mine executors where they shall think meet, at which my burial I will there be given and distributed to my poor neighbours inhabiting within the parishes of St Nicholas in Guildford, Compton, Wonersh and Shalford ten pounds after the rate of 12d the piece, and farther to other poor men as the same money will stretch as mine executors shall think meet;

Item, I will that those that shall bear me to my burying shall have every one of them 6s 8d the piece, and that there be at my burial given to the poor bread, drink and cheese sufficient which shall be at my said burial;

Item, I will and bequeath to my son [=son-in-law], John Scarlett, and to Anne, his wife, ten pounds and one of my mean gilt cups;

Item, I give to Constance Heneage twenty pounds towards her marriage;

Item, I give to William More, my son, my chain of gold, a gilt cup, with all mine apparel and household stuff, whatsoever it be, remaining in my house in the Blackfriars in London;

The residue of all my plate, corn, cattle and household stuff, whatsoever it be, I will that Constance, my wife, shall have the use thereof for the maintenance of her house during her life, so that before she meddle [f. 73v] or receive the same into her hands there be an inventory indented made, thone part to be delivered to William More, my son, and thother part to remain with her, and that before also she meddle or receive the same into her hands she find sufficient sureties to be bound in reasonable sums to William More, my son, to leave all the said plate, corn, cattle and household stuff after the death of her to my said son, William More, to whom I have and do give the same, and he then to allow her a reasonable wearing thereof;

Item, I give and bequeath to Margaret Fynes [=Fiennes], my daughter, towards the finding of her and her son, ten pounds yearly to be taken and perceived of the profits of my farm of the ulnage as long as I or William More, my son, shall have and enjoy the same;

The overplus of my said farm of the ulnage, if any be, I give it to William More, my son, and he to keep the lease thereof;

Item, I give and bequeath to Katherine Parker, my servant, forty shillings and my black gown of cloth lined with damask;

Item, I give and bequeath to John Herbert, my servant, ten pounds to be paid immediately after my death;

The residue of all my goods, chattels, money, debts which are owing me not specified in this my last will, my debts paid and my will fulfilled, I will to be equally divided between Constance, my wife, and William More, my son, whom I make and constitute mine executors of this my last will and testament;

And my brother [=brother-in-law], John Sackville, overseer thereof, and he to have for his pains five mark;

Item, I give and bequeue [sic?] to Thomas Carpenter a steer. Per me Christoferu{m} More.

Co{dicillus} eiusdem

For the better execution of the last will of me, Sir Christopher More, knight, heretofore declared, I, the same Sir Christopher, have added thereunto this codicil the 8th day of July in the third year of the reign of King Edward the 6th, that is to say:

First I confirm & ratify all things comprised in my last will and testament, adding thereunto, like as I do by this codicil, [+that I do?] further will that Dame Constance, my wife, shall not execute nor take upon her th' execution of my said last will and testament ne have or enjoy any part of my goods or chattels to her appointed by my said last will and testament until she have bound herself with sufficient sureties unto my son, William More, in such form as he shall accept for the sure restitution and deliverance unto the same William, his heirs or assigns, of all such stock of corn, cattle, plate, household stuff and other movables as I have limited to her occupying during her life and after her decease to come and be unto the said William, and until such time as the same Constance hath made a sufficient and indefeasible estate and assurance unto my said son of all her estate, power and interest of and in one messuage, garden and appurtenances within the precinct of the late Blackfriars in London whereof she hath a joint estate with me for term of her life, and whereof the same Dame Constance hath faithfully promised me to make the said estate to my said son;

And I will that Katherine Parker shall have over & above that that is specified in my last will five pounds to be paid her immediately after my death. Per me Cristoferum More.

Witness hereof, William More, Anthony Canseys, parson of Compton, John Herbert and John Woodyere of Binscombe. William More. Anthony Cansexs

Probatum fuit h{uius}mo{d}i testamentum vnacu{m} codicillo eidem annex{o} coram D{om}ino Cant{uariensis} Archie{pisco}po ap{u}d London vicesimo sexto die Aprilis

Anno d{omi}ni Millesimo quingentesimo quinquagesimo Iuramento Will{el}mi More executoris in eodem test{ament}o no{m}i{n}at{i} ac approbatum et insinuatu{m} Et com{m}issa fuit administrac{i}o o{mn}ium et sing{u}lor{um} bonor{um} &c dict{i} defunct{i} prefat{o} execut{ori} de Bene &c ac de pleno Inventario &c exhibend{o} Necnon de plano et vero comp{ot}o reddend{o} ad s{an}c{t}a dei evangelia in debita Iuris forma Iurat{o} Res{er}vata p{otes}tate similem com{m}issionem faciend{i} D{omi}ne Constanc{ie} executric{i} &c cum venerit Ipsa D{omi}na Constanc{ia} rel{i}c{t}a et executrici preno{m}i{n}at{a} in p{er}sona Thome Polsted procuratoris sui expresse renunciante &c

[=The same testament together with the codicil annexed was proved before the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury at London on the twenty-sixth day of April in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred fiftieth by the oath of William More, executor named in the same testament, and probated and entered, and administration was granted of all and singular the goods etc. of the said deceased to the forenamed executor, sworn on the Holy Gospels in due form of law to well etc., and to exhibit a full inventory etc. and also to render a plain and true account, with power reserved for a similar grant to be made to Dame Constance, executrix etc., when she shall have come, the same Lady Constance, relict and executrix, in the person of Thomas Polsted, her proctor, expressly renouncing [+the burden of execution?].